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Evaluation of insect and disease damage at the Erambert Orchard

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National Forests in Mississippi

ATTENTION: Wilbert E. Schowalter

An evaluation of insect and disease damage was conducted at the Erambert Orchard on May 21, 1975, by W. A. Overgaard and P. H. Peacher of the Alexandria Field Office. They were accompanied by Orchard Manager Merrill Graham.

Nantucket pine tip moth, Rhyacionia frustrana Comstock, damage was very light on shortleaf pines. Only two percent of the tips of a 47 shoot sample was infested with tip moth larvae.

The fact that shortleaf pines had just been sprayed with Cygon® for tip moth control could account for the present low infestation levels of this insect. One spray the last part of June and one about the middle of August should be sufficient to prevent build-up of tip moth populations at the orchard this season.

Weekly samples of shoots from loblolly pines have been collected by orchard personnel and sent to the Alexandria Field Office since March for examination for needle midge, Contarinia sp., infestation. The first needle midge larvae during the season were found on samples collected on April 28. None were found on samples collected May 5 or 11. The May 21 samples were the first with any appreciable midge infestation (Table 1). Weekly shoot samples of new growth from loblolly geographical sources should be continued to be sent for examination. This information will be used to determine when to apply insecticide tests next season.

Table 1. Needle midge, Contarinia sp., larval counts on shoots collected from loblolly geographical sources at the Erambert Orchard, May 21, 1975

Source	No. fascicles 1/ examined	% Fascicles infested with midges
North Mississippi	420	0.95
South Mississippi	365	0.33
Alabama	350	0.27

1/ Fifteen shoots from each source and five fascicles per inch of shoot length were examined for midges.

Toumeyella sp., scale is becoming heavy on some shortleaf trees. Malathion, at the rate of one gallon of 57 percent emulsifiable concentrate to 400 gallons of water should be applied as a drench spray to control this insect. This can be applied separately or in combination with Cygon® sprays for tip moth control.

Other insect infestations observed were as follows: a June beetle, Polyphylla sp., causing light feeding damage on foliage of loblolly, slash and longleaf pines; a bark beetle, Pityophthorus sp. feeding on dying terminals of loblolly pines; a pine needle gall midge, probably Retinodiplosis sp., infesting loblolly pine needles and a sawfly, Neodiprion sp., lightly infesting occasional longleaf pines. None of these are presently doing sufficient damage to justify control measures.

Dieback was observed on loblolly and slash pines and samples taken for determination for possible pitch canker infection. Separate memos will be written concerning these determinations as soon as cultures can be identified.

If you have any further questions concerning this evaluation or recommendations given, please let us know.

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